

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 June 2005 (16.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/055121 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06K 7/00,**
H01Q 3/26

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2003/013006

(22) International Filing Date:
20 November 2003 (20.11.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **TELECOM ITALIA S.P.A.** [IT/IT]; Piazza degli Affari, 2, I-20123 Milano (IT).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **GREGO, Giorgio** [IT/IT]; Telecom Italia S.p.A., Via G. Reiss Romoli, 274, I-10148 Torino (IT).

(74) Agents: **GIANNESI, Pier, Giovanni et al.**; Pirelli & C. S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

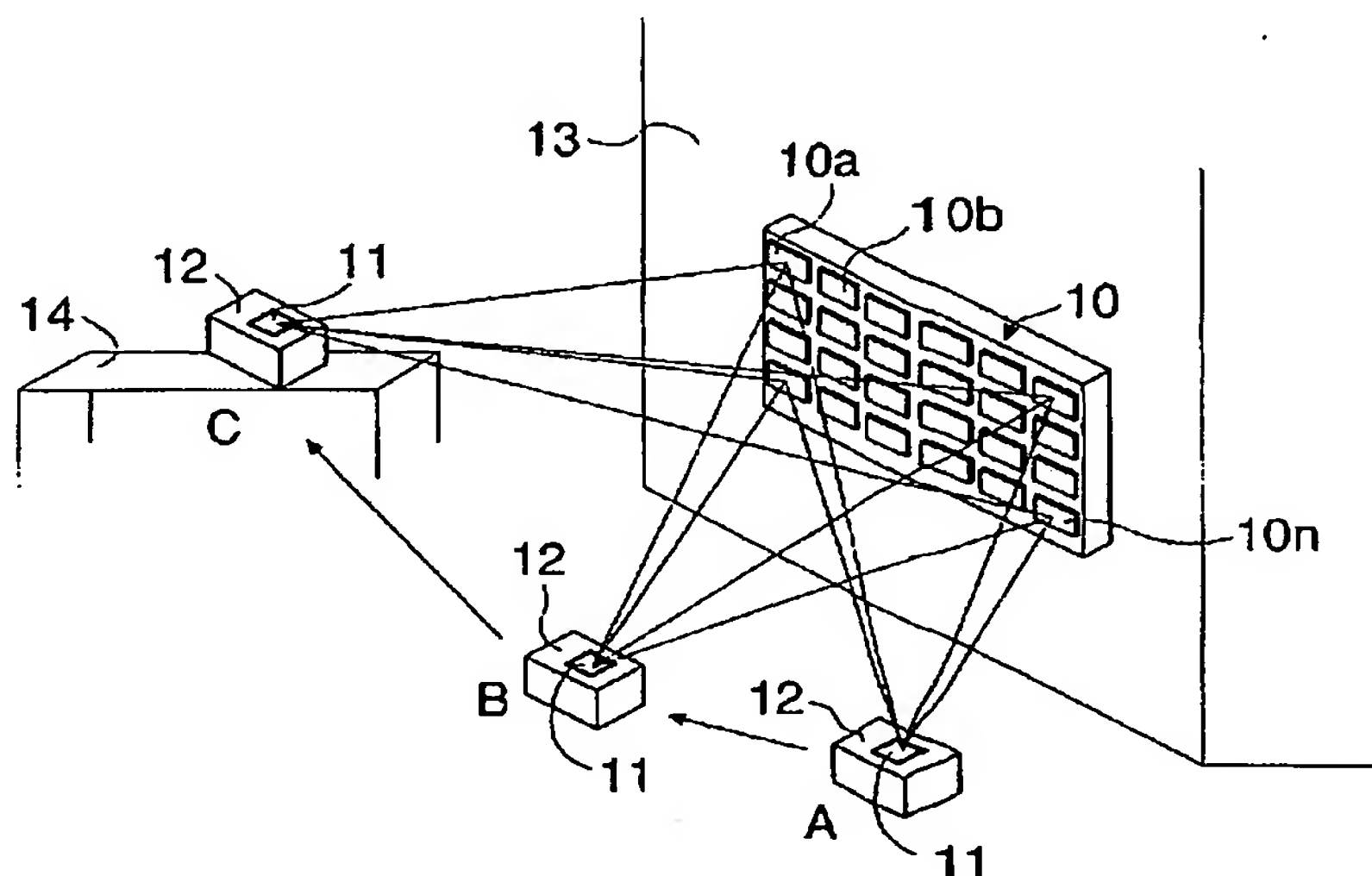
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR LONG DISTANCE READING OF PASSIVE TAGS IN RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS**



(57) Abstract: A method and an apparatus for reading passive tags (11) affixed to objects (12) to be identified and tracked by a radio frequency identification system are disclosed. An interrogating station sends radio-frequency inquiry signals towards the passive tags (11) through an antenna array (10) and receives the response signals from the tags (11) through the same array (10). Electronic circuitry (20-25) for processing such response signals comprises a phase conjugator (23) submitting each received signal to phase conjugation, and the phase-conjugated signals are back transmitted to the passive tags (11). Retrodirectivity of the antenna array obtained through the phase conjugation allows a precise object identification and tracking also at relatively long distances.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

WO 2005/055121 A1



TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.